

House Resolution 396

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52nd, Houston of the 170th, Ashe of the 56th, Orrock of the 58th, Smyre of the 132nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Celebrating and honoring the life of Mrs. Tillie K. Fowler; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Tillie K. Fowler was born in 1942 and grew up in Milledgeville, Georgia, the
3 daughter of loving parents, Culver and Katherine Kidd; and
- 4 WHEREAS, receiving both her bachelor's degree and law degree from Emory University,
5 Mrs. Fowler moved to Washington, D.C., to work as a congressional staffer for
6 Representative Robert Stephens and later as Counsel in the White House Office of Consumer
7 Affairs under President Richard Nixon; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 1968, she married Mr. L. Buck Fowler, and, relocating to Jacksonville,
9 Florida, put her professional career on hold to raise their two wonderful daughters, Tillie
10 Anne and Elizabeth; and
- 11 WHEREAS, during this time, she shared her talent and expertise with a number of charitable
12 organizations, including the American Red Cross and Volunteer Jacksonville; and
- 13 WHEREAS, she began her political career in 1985 when she was elected to the Jacksonville
14 City Council where she earned the respect of her colleagues and developed a reputation for
15 achieving bipartisan consensus, which would later characterize her career as a legislator, and,
16 despite a 16 to 3 Democrat to Republican ratio, became the first Republican and first woman
17 to serve as that body's president; and
- 18 WHEREAS, in 1992, Mrs. Fowler was elected to the United States Congress and secured an
19 appointment to the House Armed Services committee, an achievement critical to the many
20 military installations in her district; and
- 21 WHEREAS, as a knowledgeable and articulate member of this committee and the
22 Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Emergency Management, she was appointed

1 by the Speaker to a 3-member task force created to investigate allegations of sexual
2 harassment and abuse at United States military training bases; investigated and made
3 valuable suggestions to improve the country's preparedness for a domestic terrorist attack a
4 full year and a half before the terrible events of September 11, 2001; and served on the U.S.
5 Naval Academy Board of Visitors, Stennis Center for Public Service Board of Trustees,
6 Defense Department's Centers for Security Studies Board of Visitors, and the House Page
7 Board; and

8 WHEREAS, her extraordinary efforts and determination to ensure a strong United States
9 military were recognized with the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award and the
10 Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest civilian awards
11 given by the Navy and the Department of Defense; and

12 WHEREAS, she served as Deputy Majority Whip for six years and, in 1998, was chosen by
13 her Republican colleagues to be the Vice Chairman of the Republican Conference, making
14 her the highest-ranking woman in the United States Congress when she retired; and

15 WHEREAS, her distinguished career in public service stands as a respected example of
16 effective bipartisan leadership, wisdom, foresight, and outstanding dedication to our nation's
17 military men and women and the citizens they protect.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body join in celebrating the life of Mrs. Tillie K. Fowler and honoring
20 her many contributions to the State of Georgia and the United States of America.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
22 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Tillie K.
23 Fowler.